(b) if so, the percentage of the share of this industry in gross domestic product during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the number of people engaged in this industry three years ago and their likely number by the end of this?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. There has been a steady increase in the contribution to the GDP, by the Indian IT software and services industry.

(b) The percentage share in GDP of IT software and services industry during the period has been as under:

1999-2000	2.03%
2000-2001	2.81%
2001-2002	2.87%

(c) As per the NASSCOM estimate, the number of people engaged in the IT software and services industry during the corresponding period is as under:

1999-2000	340,000
2000-2001	410,000
2001-2002	520,000

Foreign Parcel Post Offices in Gujarat

798. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Foreign Parcel Post Offices in Gujarat;

(b) the number of parcels received in these post offices during the last two years;

(c) whether Government are aware of the hardships faced by the people of the State to collect foreign parcels by travelling a long distance;

(d) if so, whether Government have any plan to open more Foreign Parcel Post Offices in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, location-wise and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) There is one Sub Foreign Post Office at Ahmedabad.

(b) 31,314 parcels were received in the Foreign Post Office in Ahmedabad during the last two years;

(c) to (e) Incoming foreign parcels dispatched as per the prescribed procedure and regulations are delivered to their addresses by the delivery post office concerned. Only in exceptional cases, addresses are required to attend the Sub Foreign Post Office to furnish requisite information for customs clearance. Hence, there is no plan to open more Foreign Post Offices in the State of Gujarat.

Stoppage of storage at Jiribam (Manipur)

799. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tenders of the carriage contractor for rice to the Jiribam storage has been cancelled for 2000-2001 after a long pendency;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have stopped to stock rice at Jiribam, from where distribution to nearby district of Manipur is made; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The tenders received for the carriage contract for 2000-2001 ex-Jiribam Railhead to Food Storage Depot, Imphal, were cancelled as the rates were on the higher side.

(c) and (d) The monthly requirement of Jiribam sub-division is only 54 MTs (approx.) of rice and 18 MTs (approx.) sugar. This is being issued from Silchar, about 45 km from Jiribam.

Acceptance of parboiled rice by FCIN in A.P.

800. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed the Food Corporation of India to accept 7.5 lakh tonne parboiled rice in Andhra Pradesh; and